

Overseas Press Club Bulletin

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This Lady Knows Her Arabs



Margaret Pennar

Photos By Szasz



Suzanne Szasz

March brings to our club lobby examples of the award-winning photography of Suzanne Szasz. A native of Hungary, Szasz came to the U.S. in 1950. She started photographing without formal training and before long was hitting the major magazines, as she continues to do. She has won three Art Directors awards for ads, and first, second and third prizes for pictures and picture stories in the Encyclopedia Britannica-Missouri School of Journalism competitions. She is represented in the Museum of Modern Art and has done a number of children's books, one with Paul Gallico and one with Benjamin Spock.

This begins what we hope will become a welcome and regular feature in the BULLETIN, sort of helping OPCers to get to know one another better. We welcome your suggestions . . . and contributions.

At a time when we all need to learn all we can about the Arab world to facilitate better understanding of the Middle East as a whole, we have an OPC member who may well be the best possible authority.

Her name is **Margaret Pennar**. She calls herself "an independent consultant on Arab cultural affairs, especially as related to Egypt," her native land. She is a freelance information expert specializing in Middle East affairs in press, radio and films. She writes, edits and narrates.

Currently, she is the writer/announcer of "The Arab Press Review," a weekly 15-minute radio program especially prepared for American audiences. It is distributed by the Broadcasting Foundation of America, of which **Howard Kany** is vice-president. This educational institution won the 1973 Award for Radio Promotion and International Understanding.

"Programs in this series reflect the wide range of opinion in the press of the Arab world," Pennar reports. "Other programs I do on the Arab states, including a bi-weekly series on Egypt, feature reports and interviews on education, literature, travel and the arts."

You name anything Arab-oriented in New York City or the United States and Margaret Pennar probably has, or has had a hand in it. She served as consultant for "Journey to the West," a documentary film on Arab Americans. She helped organize and promote the "Egyptian Cinema" Festival at Bleecker Street Cinema back in 1975. She also served on the selection committee and helped promote the Middle East Film Festival at Bleecker Street Cinema in 1978.

She worked on the 1979 Arab Film Festival at Georgetown University in Washington, and in 1980 in Texas. She has narrated films; prepared information on Arab artists; taught several years in the Department of Near East Languages and Cultures at Columbia University.

In fact, there isn't much Arab-wise Margaret hasn't done since she first arrived in the United States in 1952 with a one-year contract as writer/announcer for the Voice of America Arabic Service. She resigned in 1955, and has since been doing freelance work for VOA covering the United Nations on a weekly basis, as well as special events in New York City.

400 Award Entries Set Club Record

The judges are hard at work these days trying to pick winners from among some 400 entries — a record number! — in the OPC annual awards competition.

Fifteen winners will be announced at the annual dinner April 29 at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Just before taking off for a brief visit in Paris, President **Henry Gellermann** expressed satisfaction with the spate of entries — they all seemed to come in during the last few days before the February 6 deadline, filling the club's office and swamping the staff.

"This is a great tribute to the OPC," Gellermann gloated. "It shows that the media — newspapers, magazines, TV and radio, wire services, feature syndicates and book publishers — all have a high regard for the OPC competition and are eager to win its awards."

"In addition, the club collected about \$8000 in fees!"

Before flying away, Gellermann also did a pitch for DATELINE '81, which will carry news of the awards and pictures of the winners — and will have its first distribution at the annual dinner. The pitch was over New York City's radio station, WNYC, in an interview with Jacqueline Bazan, the station's news commentator. He told about the history of the publication, its contributors, and the importance of this year's issue because of its round-up of world reaction to the Reagan take-over.

Currently she is the U.S. representative of Khalid Siddik, a young and talented Kuwaiti filmmaker whose latest production won the award for Best Feature at the 1980 International Film Festival in Athens, Ohio.

Born in Cairo, she is now a naturalized American citizen.

Anything to do with Arab-American understanding Margaret Pennar is a pro, and a valuable OPC member whom we should call on particularly when Middle East issues become as complicated as they are today.

—Blythe Foote Finke

March 17 this year marks not only the advent of St. Patrick's Day and the annual greening of New York, but also the birthday of the Chemists' Club Building, which houses the OPC. It was on March 17, 1911, that the clubhouse was opened with appropriate dining, drinking and dedicating.

It's Time to Pick Club Governors

February 25, 1981

The Nominating Committee has named the following candidates for the seven Active and one Associate openings on the Board of Governors.

ACTIVE (elect seven)

Alfred Balk
Blythe Foote Finke*
Morton Frank
Barrett Gallagher*
Mike Johnson
Howard Kany*
Robert Kleiman

Rosalind Massow
Hugh Mulligan
David Oestreicher
Roy Rowan*
Dwight Sargent*
Howard Schoenholtz
Lawrence Stessin

ASSOCIATE (elect one)

Norman Schorr*
Gloria Watson*
Gloria Zukerman

(*denotes incumbent)

Under OPC By-Laws (Art. XI, Sect. 3), additional nominations may be made by petition. A petition for each candidate must be signed by no fewer than 40 eligible members, active or associate, depending on the nominees' classification. Each petition must be delivered in 11 days after the date of the Bulletins' issue which contains the Nominating Committees' list of candidates. Accordingly, this year's petition must be delivered or mailed by March 12, 1981.

Respectfully submitted,
Nominating Committee

Ed Cuninghame, Chairman
Ruth Biemiller
Ann Turner Bruno
Henry Cassidy

Kenneth Giniger
Greta Jones
Herbert Kupferberg
Ralph Leviton

Elmer Lower

Root's News Now is "Food"

Waverly Root, Paris-based OPC long-time member, is one of the world's experts on food. He is as graceful in his writings about his specialty as he is knowledgeable about it. His most recent work, "Food" is a charming, beautifully illustrated encyclopedia of all that is edible from artichokes to zucchini, and everything else in between. It has just received an accolade from another connoisseur, Craig Clairborne, in the *New York Times*. Earlier, when the book was published, OPC Founder Member **Irene Corbally Kuhn** reviewed it and recommended it for Christmas giving in her December book column in the *Union Leader*, Manchester, N.H., mentioning as well earlier Root works of great distinction, "The Food of France," and "The Food of Italy."

Waverly Root, still living and working in the same Paris apartment he has occupied for more than 25 years, is the author of many other books. Among them are "The Secret History of the War" and "Casablanca to Katyn," both put out by Scribner's.

A one-time OPC vice president, and a former vice president in Paris of the Anglo-American Press Club, Root's beat has extended all over Europe. Like many other foreign correspondents of the years between the wars, he was on the staff of the Paris edition of the *Chicago Tribune* as its news editor. He covered breaking stories for the *United Press* and was a correspondent for the *Mutual Broadcasting Company* in Europe.

Late in 1979, he performed a sad duty in extolling the character and career of a greatly-loved and sorely missed OPC member, **Ralph Jules Frantz**, in a poignant and beautiful obituary in the *International Herald Tribune*.

Root is the quintessential foreign correspondent. To paraphrase actor John Houseman's TV commercial for Smith Barney, "He made his reputation the hard way; he *earned it!*"

—**Irene Corbally Kuhn**

Alfred Balk, Editor and Publisher of *World Press Review* and OPC member, is a true success story. His monthly foreign press review began the year with over 130,000 circulation, double that of four years ago, fourth among non-ideological U.S. public affairs magazines, behind *Saturday Review*, *Atlantic*, and *Harper's*.

His magazine is read regularly in the White House, Congress, by leading business front offices, media and academia. *World Press Review* foreign editorial comment and features are reprinted in leading American papers.

Balk is proud that the content (except for interviews with foreign editors and letters) is entirely from the press outside the United States. This gives the average subscriber reading time of two hours per issue. This "belies the notion that Americans aren't interested in the 'outside World!'" Balk reminds us.

Letters

SEOUL — Ed White has arrived in Seoul to become the AP bureau chief. He transferred from Honolulu after previous AP service in Vietnam and Tokyo.

The Seoul bureaus of AP, UPI, Reuters and Agence France Presse have moved into the new building occupied by South Korea's new national news agency, Yonhap.

Yonhap News Agency was established in December when the Korean government directed that the nation's two competing news agencies, Orient Press and Hapdong News Agency, merge into one. Yonhap inherited all foreign services received by Orient and Hapdong.

Bob Trumbull, who retired a year ago after covering Asia and the Pacific since World War II for *The New York Times*, lives in Honolulu with wife Jean. Bob free-lances for *The Times* and writes a weekly column for *The Honolulu Advertiser*, where he worked before the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The Trumbulls live at 431 Nahua Street, Apartment 1107, Honolulu 96815.

The Rev. Father Archie Bryson, a Catholic news correspondent based in Japan for many years after World War II, is critically ill in the LCM Nursing Home, West Street, Lewisham, New South Wales 2049, Australia.

Bryson, 76, once an Australian army boxing champion, told friends he has terminal cancer. In an article headlined "Archie the Diggers' Pal Comes Home to Die," the *Sydney Sunday Telegraph* quoted him, "I know what I've got is terminal but God's will will be done. I am happy."

—**Al Kaff**

* * *

HONG KONG — In Singapore, Paul Wedel, UPI, was elected president of the Foreign Correspondents Association of Southeast Asia. He succeeded Richard Gill, *Melbourne Herald*, who was killed in an automobile accident last year.

Seen in Hong Kong's Foreign Correspondents Club: Keith Harris, editor of the *Sydney Daily Mirror*, vacationing with wife Judith; Bob Kaylor, UPI Paris, traveling with wife Cathy; and Jack Dinken, long-time member of the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan, reminiscing with former Tokyo hands Richard Hughes of the *Times* of London, Eddie Tseng of the Central News Agency of Taiwan, and **Al Kaff**, UPI.

The Hong Kong Correspondents Club is looking for new premises. The lease on the three floors now occupied by the Club expires in October, and the Club doubts it can afford another rent increase.

The Club, with 1,035 members when 1981 started, is located in Hong Kong's central business district with a spectacular view of the Harbor and the Peak, and maintains reciprocal relations with the OPC.

—**Al Kaff**

OPCers Were Early Women Reporters

OPC members **Kathleen McLaughlin, Irene Corbally Kuhn, Mary Hornaday, Norma Abrams Miley, Dorothy Ducas, Sonia Tomara** didn't wait for **Betty Friedan** and Gloria Steinem, and ERA. They, together with other successful female journalists featured in a new book entitled "She Was There," made their mark, and survived a man's world long before.

Author Jean E. Collins, herself a newspaper and magazine reporter, in this first book, a Julian Messner release, traces the exciting, amusing hair-raising tales of women journalists from the 1920s to today. They tell in their own words how they survived in a predominately male profession, and relished every moment.

It isn't a biography in the strict sense. Rather it is human interest, the common experiences shared by these early pioneers. Collins captures their keen sense of humor, perseverance, self-confidence, resistance against discrimination.

McLaughlin, a lady who has done so much for OPC through the years, is grateful for "the camaraderie of many wonderful journalists."

OPC founder-member Kuhn, radio journalist and war correspondent, made the first radio broadcast from Shanghai when that city was liberated in 1945.

Miley tells tales of reporting for a tabloid. Gilman was a "stunt reporter," sob sister and foreign correspondent.

Beloved Emma Bugbee describes how the ladies worked so hard "and loved it." No five day weeks for them. Newspaper editor Hazel Garland raised funds for the defense of a Negro sharecropper before civil rights. Photojournalist Mary Morris was one of the first fulltime for AP *Features* back in 1937.

Another first was sportswriter Mary Garber when women reporters were "as rare as a four minute mile," says Collins. Drama critic Judith Crist was once tagged by the Louis Harris poll as "the most influential film critic" in the country.

Celestine Sibley wasn't bothered about not being paid as much as men, but rather concentrated on the challenge of covering the story. Marie Torre was the first woman to go to jail for refusing to reveal a news source.

Finally, celebrated White House UPI bureau chief, Helen Thomas, is the first woman to hold such a position, and she considers it all joy, not work.

Author Collins spent hours and days interviewing these distinguished ladies, now almost all in their sixties, seventies and eighties. She has come up with a brief, pungent 191 pages. The book is highly recommended, especially to put the female journalistic role in more perspective.

—Blythe Foote Finke

**Eat and Drink
With Us
at The Club**

Seminars for OPCers

Dedicated OPCer **Arturo (Arky) Gonzalez, Jr.**, offers all OPC members a chance of a professional lifetime. He is directing one day "Writer's Digest" Non-Fiction seminars in 12 cities in the United States and Canada.

He invites you all to attend as his guest. If you are interested call him at 714-485-0270, or write to him care of Ranch Coast Publishing Company, 17410 Plaza Fiel Rancho Bernardo, San Diego, California 92128.

Dates of the seminars (past and future) are: Jan. 24-Phoenix; Jan. 31-Austin; Feb. 7-Albuquerque; Feb. 28-Tampa; Mar. 7-Salt Lake City; Mar. 14-Durham/Chapel Hill; Mar. 21-Nashville; Mar. 28-New York; Apr. 4-Tulsa; Apr. 11-Kansas City; Apr. 25-Vancouver, B.C.; May 2-Columbus, Ohio. The day begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m.

Featured on the program are sessions on

- Feature articles, and where they come from;
- Packaging story ideas — the article outline;
- Which magazines are most likely to buy;
- Contacting editors and accepting rejection;
- Thinking like an editor and writing so the editor can't say no;
- Negotiation, the basics of freelance business;

Arky also writes: "If OPC members would like to attend as my guest, have them give me a call. If they would like to speak, too, great. No fee. But it does give them a chance to push their latest book, if they want. We have had many authors who have come with a few dozen copies of their books and sold autographed copies after their remarks."

New Applications

ACTIVE RESIDENT

John J. Grimes; Editor-Publisher, *Irish Echo*
Sponsors: **Henry Gellermann, Harry Rand**

John J. Thornton; Editor, *Irish Echo*
Sponsors: **Henry Gellermann, Harry Rand**

ACTIVE NONRESIDENT

Owen F. Campion; Editor, *The Tennessee Register*
Sponsors: **Robert L. Fenton, Henry Gellermann**

ASSOCIATE RESIDENTS

Martin E. Appel; Director, Public Relations, WPIX Inc.

Sponsors: **Robert F. Blake, Anthony R. Gentile**

Thomas J. Craddock; Director of Promotion & Research,

Metropolitan Sunday Newspapers Inc.

Sponsors: **Irvin S. Taubkin, Henry Gellermann**

ASSOCIATE NONRESIDENT

Glen Fischer, Freelance writer

Sponsors: **William J. Papp, Helen Alpert**

New Members

ACTIVE RESIDENT:

Reginald Gragonier, Jr.

ACTIVE NONRESIDENT:

Al Goldstein

John M. Williams

Mrs. Elmer Lower

Friends of Gilberta Madeleine Lower paid their respects to her memory at funeral services in New York City on Feb. 8. The wife of **Elmer Lower**, a former president of OPC, she had passed away on Feb. 4. President Henry Gellermann, representing OPC at the services, made a memorial contribution to the Eighth Church of Christ, Scientist, of which Mrs. Lower was an active member.

OFFICE AVAILABLE

International News Bureau located midtown Manhattan on Madison Ave., will have room available from March 1 suitable foreign corr. or freelance, round-the-clock building, facilities include clippings library, telex, copier, answering service, telephone (212) 832-2840.

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The name McNeil has been synonymous with the development and manufacture of quality prescription and over-the-counter drug products for more than a half-century. Incorporated in 1933, the firm became a member of the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies in 1959. McNeil is the maker of Tylenol® acetaminophen products, which include: pediatric and adult Tylenol, CoTylenol cold formula tablets for adults and liquid for children, and Sine-Aid® tablets for sinus headaches.

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Irvin S. Taubkin, Editor; **Helen Alpert**, **George E. Burns**, **Blythe Foote Finke**, **Rosalind Moore**, **Charles J. Schreiber**, associate editors.

Who, What, Where

By BLYTHE FOOTE FINKE

Nothing keeps witty, indefatigable former OPC President **Dick Johnston** down. He may be retired from *The New York Times*, but is just as active. He appears as guest commentator on "Postscripts," (Channel 24 WMFE-TV (PBS) in Orlando, Florida, where he and his wife, Betty, make their home now. He is also a member of a very active group of 700 members in the Winter Park University Club and the local chapter of Sigma Delta Chi.

Also retired in Orlando, are **Helen Auble**, **Paul Alley** and **Gordon Fraser**, long time OPC members. "They send sun drenched greetings to frost-bitten old friends on East 41st Street," writes Dick.

* * *

And another longtime, loyal OPC champion, **Adele Gutman Nathan** is also busy as ever. She makes documentaries and teaches children to like to read for Company 7 Productions. Her first film shows Adele with a charming six-year-old Hispanic, Nadya Garcia. They read aloud from "Alice," "The Mikado," and two of Adele's earlier books, "The Iron Horse" (Knopf) and "Let's Play Garden" (Grossett). Nadya and Adele enjoy themselves as they translate back and forth in Spanish and English.

Nathan's later books for young adults — among them "Lincoln's America" (Grossett) and "John Andre: Gentleman Spy" (Kenneth Giniger) — have been published in England, on the Continent and in China for the adult book market. Congratulations, Adele!

* * *

When the Foreign Press Association held their elections recently, they named OPCer **Fred Vaz Dias** a vice president. Fred represents Dutch press here as well as running his own agency here and in Amsterdam. Hugh E. Schmidt, New York correspondent for Australian newspapers was elected president; Igor Makurin of Tass, a vice president; Charlotte Kahler of Nouvelle Agence de Presse, Paris, general secretary; and Gianna Pontecorvoli of Italy's *Settimanale*, assistant.

* * *

If you need help in writing or reporting on toxic substances, you will find it in a new 180-page guide just published by the World Environment Center, of which OPCer **Whitman Bassow**, one-time Moscow correspondent for *Newsweek* and *UPI*, is executive director. The Center is non-profit and non-advocacy. The guide, CONTACT: TOXICS, largely funded by the National Science Foundation, has been sent free to 200 daily newspapers and radio and TV newsrooms. Copies can be had from the Center, 300 East 42 St., N.Y.C. 10017 — \$37.50 for non-profit organizations, \$49.50 for industry and government.

* * *

Theo Wilson, the New York *News* man on the West Coast, stayed at the club during the New Year holiday and was so delighted, he writes "how kind, efficient and helpful all of the employees were."

* * *

Rave reviews the country over have greeted **Dan Kurzman's** book, "Miracle of November: Madrid's Epic Stand 1936." Like "remarkable evocation of the Spanish Civil War," "reminiscent of Hemingway," "one of the best of 20th century journalist-historians," and "this book is his finest."

* * *

Franklin "Frank" S. Riley has been elected vice president of the Peninsula Press Club, Palo Alto, Calif.; and also was elected to a two-year term as director of the Peninsula Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, headquartered in Palo Alto, Calif.

* * *

Katharine Graham, board chairman of the Washington Post Company, will be the speaker at MATRIX 1981, the 1981 awards luncheon of New York Women in Communications, scheduled for March 25 at the Sheraton Centre. The luncheon will honor women of achievement in six areas — advertising, books, broadcasting, magazines, newspapers and public relations.

* * *

TONY LINCK and his wife Marie have recently returned from an interesting trip to Egypt on a combination photo assignment and vacation. The trip to Cairo was especially great for Marie. She worked for the U.S. State Dept. at the American Embassy there years ago.

* * *

Arthur Rothstein, whose photographs command big dollars as collectors more and more want them, has put 122 of his pictures into a new volume showing "The American West in the Thirties."

* * *

Leo Mishkin, for many years one of the most versatile and respected critics in theatre, film and television, died December 27 in Santa Monica, Calif., where he had made his home since 1972. He was 74. And, as his widow, Beatrice, told us, "a devoted member of OPC."

Mishkin was born in New York City. His father was Herman Mishkin, for 25 years offi-

cial photographer for the Metropolitan Opera. Leo attended NYU and worked as an office boy for MGM's publicity department.

During the 20's he was a reporter for the *Chicago Tribune's* Paris edition. Back in New York, he worked for the *Journal* and the *Mirror* and from 1934 until the paper folded in 1971 he served the *Morning Telegraph* as television and theatre critic. He had served also as copy editor and theatre critic for *Daily Variety*.

Mishkin was a member also of the Variety Club, the Silurians, Sigma Delta Chi, the New York Drama Critics Circle, and the New York Film Critics, which he helped found and served as chairman.

He is survived by a daughter, a son and six grandchildren.

* * *

Mark J. Henehan, who started his career as a reporter and ended it as a public relations consultant, died in New York City on Feb. 5. He had worked for newspapers in Chicago, Buffalo and Seattle, had written short stories and articles, and had handled public relations for major corporations, including Ford Motor Co., Sperry Rand and Bell Aircraft. He is survived by a brother, Paul.

* * *

Isaac Don Levine, whose typewriter for years fired persistently at Soviet Russia, died Feb. 15 in Florida. He was 89.

Mr. Levine was born in Russia and came to the United States in 1911 as a lad of 19. He worked for the *Kansas City Star* and the *New York Tribune*, and then became a columnist for the Hearst newspapers. In the 1920s he covered the civil war in Russia for U.S. newspapers. Over the years he also published more than a dozen books.

After World War 2 he was editor of *Plain Talk*, an anti-Communist magazine. In the 1950s he helped form the American Committee for the Liberation of the Peoples of Russia.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, and a son, Robert Don Levine, of Washington.

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FIRST CLASS

